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STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, INR/IAA, PM, INL STATE FOR INR/R/MR

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR KPAO OPRC PTER CI

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - CHILE: BACHELET CABINET MEMBERS

On January 31, conservative, independent "La Tercera" (circ. 102,000) carried an editorial entitled, "Michelle Bachelet's Stamp." Ouote:

"Michelle Bachelet's appointments reflect a clear effort to integrate younger people in an attempt to promote generational change.... As was the case with those who preceded her, Bachelet wants to begin office with a differentiating mark. Although she has appointed some 'traditional leaders,' it seems the president-elect wants to keep some distance from the Concertacion political coalition's establishment. This is a risky bet, because she will head a brief four-year government, will face a determined opposition, will have to deal with an injured Christian Democratic Party, and will be inevitably compared with her immediate predecessor."

KELLY